



Southwest *Church of the Nazarene*

CHURCH NEWSLETTER
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DON'T LOSE FRIENDSHIP

A new homeowner's riding mower had broken down, and he'd been working fruitlessly for hours trying to get it back together. Suddenly, one of his neighbors appeared with a handful of tools. "Can I give some help?" In twenty minutes, he had the mower working great. "Thanks a million," the now-happy newcomer said. "And say, what do you do with such fine tools?" "Make friends."

With all the commotion going on in our world, don't lose friendship. It is what brings our neighborhoods together. It is what makes the world feel safe again, and let's us know the whole world hasn't gone crazy!

Friends can be lifelong, or you just met at the dry cleaners. The good thing about friendship is that it doesn't have to have any rules. They can be any nationality, any color, any political party, and what they do for a living (if anything) does not matter. Friendship supersedes all criteria. Unless your teenage daughter brings home a scary looking "boyfriend" ... then, you can start drawing the line!

The beauty of friendships is that they can be started just about anywhere at any time, you just need to notice them. They are sitting in the doctor's office waiting room with you, shopping down the same aisle you are, pumping gas at the next pump, or walking past your home each night. They are people, just like you, wanting to live a peaceful life.

When I think of Jesus walking the earth, I don't think of him saying "Oh brother, I have to go meet more people today!" No, instead I picture his eyes looking at each person he passes, and his heart being filled with love for them. Everyone was important to him – the sick and the whole, the sinner and the saint, and the Samaritan and the Jew. The crowds longed to be near him, partly due to His miracles, but also because He was different. The people

saw in His eyes, kindness, gentleness, and compassion. When you met him, you met a friend... one who would be honest with you and was trustworthy. You were a better person by knowing Him. As Henry Ford once said, "My best friend is the one who brings out the best in me."

As we are reading through Proverbs as a church, there are many scriptures speaking of friendship. Here are a few.

Proverbs 17:17

"A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity." NKJV

Proverbs 18:24

"A man who has friends must himself be friendly, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother." NKJV

Proverbs 18:19

"An offended friend is harder to win back than a fortified city. Arguments separate friends like a gate locked with bars." NLT

Proverbs 27:9

"The heartfelt counsel of a friend is as sweet as perfume and incense." NLT

Proverbs 27:10

"Never abandon a friend— either yours or your father's. When disaster strikes, you won't have to ask your brother for assistance. It's better to go to a neighbor than to a brother who lives far away." NLT

Proverbs 27:17

"As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend." NLT

Life is better with friends. After all, isn't this what makes Christ and Christianity so attractive? As Elmer Towns surveyed years ago, 86% of people come to Christ because of a friend or relative. So, today don't forget friendship; it really does matter.

Pastor Scott & Cindy

When the Days are Going By

By George Cooper

There are lonely hearts to cherish,
While the days are going by;
There are weary souls who perish,
While the days are going by;
If a smile we can renew,
As our journey we pursue,
O, the good we all may do,
While the days are going by!

There's no time for idle scorning,
While the days are going by;
Let your face be like the morning,
While the days are going by;
For the world is full of sighs,
Full of sad and weeping eyes;
Help your fallen brother rise,
While the days are going by.

All the loving links that bind us,
While the days are going by;
One by one we leave behind us,
While the days are going by;
But the seeds of good we sow,
Both in shade and shine will grow,
And will keep our hearts aglow,
While the days are going by.

Going by, going by,
Going by, going by;
O, the good we all may do,
While the days are going by!



Thanks to Pam Winn 01-04-2010

BRING FRIENDS TO CHURCH DAY IS SUPER
EASY FOR ME ... ALL I NEED IS MY
LAPTOP

Baptisms & Memberships: If you have received Christ in your life and have not been baptized or if you are a believer and want to go through our membership class, please see Pastor Scott.

- **Baptism** is a symbol of our leaving the old life and rising to new life in Christ. It is our testimony to the world that we are a Christ follower and desire to belong to the family of God.
- **Membership** is when a believer makes a commitment to their local church, to support it with their attendance, tithes and offerings, and to use their talents and gifts to help accomplish Christ's Great Commission. It is agreeing with the doctrines and polity of the Church of the Nazarene as they have outlined from the Scriptures guidelines for the church. With membership you have the right to be a part of the Annual Elections, voting, and even being a candidate for a position.
- ***If the Lord is leading you to either of these areas, please contact Pastor Scott, and we will set up a class time for you.***

New Announcements:

February 7 – Special Sunday to introduce our Swahili Church Ministry. Acrame Charles (Local Nazarene Minister's License) will bring the message in Swahili with Kado Kapinga interpreting into English. Imani Ekombe will also have a special song for us that day.

March 21 – Olivet Music and Preaching Ambassadors will be with us. A love offering will be taken for them.

Swahili Church Ministry

Exciting News! We have been working for a few months on our new Swahili church ministry, and things are starting to come together. We hope to have plans finished for this soon and have it approved by the District Superintendent and our church board. Their ministry, under Pastor Acrame Charles, will be focusing on the African refugees in our area who speak the Swahili language. **One of the ways we can help:** we would like to have 5 people who would commit to pray for this ministry in its beginning stages. There are many needs, and we want God's protection and blessing upon everything. If you would like to be a part of this team, please let Pastor Scott know. Also, we will be asking for volunteer help soon for other areas. It is exciting to see how God is going to use this new ministry for His glory!

Praises:

- Praise the Lord for decent winter weather! In the past we seemed to always have a few Sundays cancelled due to snow and ice. This year we are doing well... thankful for every time we can be together!
- Praise the Lord for our nursery! Yes, we are going to be doing some remodeling to our nursery and unattended nursery area, with hopes to reopen these soon.
- Praise the Lord for our Church Board Members! God has blessed SW with men and women who love the Lord and serve the church with great dedication. Good leaders make great churches!
- Praise the Lord for His help this year financially! Through the sale of the Annex building, we were able to pay off \$122,500 on our existing mortgage. We hope to pay the mortgage off within 40 months. We also have been able to put aside funds for our future building needs and emergency fund. Thank you to everyone for supporting your church! Praise the Lord for blessing us with the ability to give!

Prayer Needs:

Prayer Needs can be found in the mailed and emailed versions of the church newsletter.

Join us Wednesdays at 6:30pm for Prayer Meeting! Let us pray for one another!

Upcoming Events:

- January 24th, Sunday – 10:40am Worship Service
- January 25th, Monday – 6:30pm to 8:00pm MOPS Meeting
- January 31st, Sunday – 10:40am Worship Service
- February 7th, Sunday – 10:40am Worship Service: Special service – Swahili Church Ministry.
- February 8th, Monday – 6:30pm to 8:00pm MOPS Meeting
- February 9th, Tuesday – 6:30pm Nominating Committee Meeting
- February 14th, Sunday – 10:40am Worship Service
- February 21st, Sunday – 10:40am Worship Service: New Members, Baptisms.
- February 22nd, Monday – 6:30pm to 8:00pm MOPS Meeting
- February 28th, Sunday - 10:40am Worship Service: District Superintendent Dr. Ron Blake will be speaking.
- February 28th, End of Church Year
- March 4th, Thursday - End of Church Year: Reports Due (SDMI, NMI, NYI, Treasurers, Etc.)
- March 7th, Sunday – 10:40am Worship Service: Annual Church Elections
- March 8th, Monday – 6:30pm to 8:00pm MOPS Meeting
- March 14th, Sunday – 10:40am Worship Service
- March 21st, Sunday – 10:30am Worship Service: Olivet Music & Preaching Ambassadors
- March 22nd, Monday – 6:30pm to 8:00pm MOPS Meeting
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